

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims

1. (currently amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a stem for implantation at least partially within the medullary canal of a long bone;
a rod connected to said stem and extending therefrom; and
a centralizer defining an aperture ~~therein~~ therethrough for slidably receiving at least a portion of said rod, said rod and said centralizer closely conforming to each other during the slidable receiving thereof, said centralizer including a surface thereof for guiding said rod into the aperture.

2. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1:
wherein said stem has a first portion and a second portion, said first portion defining an cavity therein; and

wherein said rod defines a longitudinal axis thereof, said rod being removable from the stem a first direction along the axis and said rod being restrained within said stem a second direction opposed to the first direction along the axis.

3. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said centralizer comprises ribs on the outer periphery thereof.

4. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein at least one of said rod and said centralizer comprise a resorbable material.

5. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture converges toward the aperture.

6. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 5, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture comprises a funnel.

7. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the aperture of said centralizer comprises a through hole for the passage therethrough of at least a portion of said rod.

8. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:

a stem for implantation at least partially within the medullary canal of a long bone, said stem having a first portion and a second portion, said first portion defining an cavity therein;

a rod connected to said stem and at least partially fittable within the cavity of the first portion of said stem, said rod defining a longitudinal axis thereof, said rod being removable from the stem a first direction along the axis and said rod being restrained within said stem a second direction opposed to the first direction along the axis; and

a centralizer defining an opening therein, the opening of said centralizer and said rod having a closely conforming fit therebetween during the ~~slidably~~ relative motion therebetween ~~fitted to at least a portion of said rod.~~

9. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 8, wherein said centralizer defines a aperture therein for receiving at least a portion of said rod, said centralizer including a surface thereof for guiding said rod into the aperture.

10. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture converges toward the aperture.

11. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture comprises a funnel.

12. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the aperture of said centralizer comprises a through hole for the passage therethrough of at least a portion of said rod.

13. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 8 wherein said centralizer comprises ribs on the outer periphery thereof.

14. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 8, wherein at least one of said rod and said centralizer comprises a resorbable material.

15. (Cancelled) A centralizing assembly for use with a stem for implantation at least partially within the medullary canal of a long bone comprising:

a rod; and

a centralizer defining a aperture therein for receiving at least a portion of said rod, said centralizer including a surface thereof for guiding said rod into the aperture.

16. (Cancelled) The prosthesis of claim 15, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture converges toward the aperture.

17. (Cancelled) The prosthesis of claim 16, wherein the surface of said centralizer for guiding said rod into the aperture comprises a funnel.

18. (Cancelled) The prosthesis of claim 15, wherein the aperture of said centralizer comprises a through hole for the passage therethrough of at least a portion of said rod.

19. (Cancelled) The centralizing assembly of claim 15, wherein said centralizer comprises ribs on the outer periphery thereof.

20. (Cancelled) The centralizing assembly of claim 15, wherein at least one of said rod and said centralizer comprises a resorbable material.

21. (Cancelled) The centralizing assembly of claim 20, wherein said resorbable material comprises at least one of a polylactide, a polyglycolide, a vitamin E derivative, a glycerol, a gelatin and a polymer or a co-polymer.

22. (Cancelled) A rod for use to connect a prosthetic stem with a centralizer for implantation at least partially within the medullary canal of a long bone comprising a rod adapted to be operably associated with the stem, a portion of said rod comprising a resorbable material.

23. (Cancelled) The rod of claim 22, wherein said resorbable material comprises at least one of a polylactide, a polyglycolide, a vitamin E derivative, a glycerol, a gelatin and a polymer or a co-polymer.

24. (Cancelled) A stem for use with a centralizing assembly, the stem for implantation at least partially within the medullary canal of a long bone, the stem having a first portion and a second portion, said first portion defining an cavity therein for cooperation with the centralizing assembly, the centralizing assembly being removable from the stem in a first direction and being restrained within said stem a second direction opposed to the first direction.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for providing total hip arthroplasty comprising:

Resecting a long bone,

opening a medullary canal of the long bone,

placing a plug into the canal, the plug defining an opening therein,

inserting cement into the canal,

providing a stem having a cavity on the distal end thereof,

placing a rod into the cavity,

implanting the first end of the stem at least partially within the medullary canal, and

sliding the rod into the opening of the plug to centralize the stem, while maintaining intimate contact therebetween.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25:

wherein the placing a plug step comprises placing a step having a guiding surface thereof and defining a aperture thereof; and

wherein the connecting the rod step comprises the step guiding said rod into the aperture.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the guiding said rod step comprises passing the rod through the aperture.